

Listing of the Claims:

***This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:***

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A container for holding food items at an elevated temperature and humidity, the container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated and humidified; ~~and~~

a duct system configured to direct an air stream across the opening, the duct system comprising a plurality of air returns; and

a baffle positioned in the duct system adjacent to a water source which is used to humidify the air stream;

wherein at least one of the air returns is positioned to receive at least a portion of the air stream so that a barrier is formed between the interior of the container and an exterior environment; and

wherein the container is configured so that the food items are positioned substantially between at least another one of the air returns and the opening, the another one of the air returns being configured to receive another portion of the air stream.

20. (Original) The container according to claim 19, wherein the container is portable.

21. (Original) The container according to claim 19, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.

22. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 21, wherein the air stream is used to heat and/or humidify the interior of the container.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the container;

an air curtain positioned over the opening to form a barrier between the interior of the container and an exterior environment, the interior of the container being heated; ~~and~~

a first side positioned substantially opposite the opening, the first side comprising at least one air return which is configured to receive a portion of the air from the air curtain[[:]] wherein a majority of air received by the at least one air return in the first side comes from the air curtain; and

a duct system which directs air over the opening to form the air curtain and a baffle positioned in the duct system, wherein the baffle is positioned adjacent to a water source which is used to humidify the air used to form the air curtain.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The container according to claim 24, comprising a fan configured to circulate the air in the air curtain through the container.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 24, wherein the at least one opening is substantially planar.

29. (Original) The container according to claim 24, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.

30-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, comprising a fan which is used to move the air stream through the duct system.

43. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, wherein the another one of the air returns is positioned on a side of the container which is at least substantially opposite the opening.

44-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, wherein the air stream is used to humidify the interior of the container.

50. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 24, wherein the container is configured so that the food items are positioned substantially between the at least one air return and the at least one opening.

51-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously Presented) A container comprising:  
at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in a single loop in the container, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that air travels from the air curtain through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items to at least one opening in the duct system.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 60, wherein the at least one opening in the duct system is positioned at least substantially opposite the at least one opening which provides access to the interior of the container.

63. (Previously Presented) A container comprising:  
at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated and humidified; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in a single loop in the container, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that a portion of the air stream travels between the air curtain and at least one opening in the duct system through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 63, wherein the at least one opening in the duct system is positioned at least substantially opposite the at least one opening which provides access to the interior of the container.

66-68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated and humidified; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in the container, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that a portion of the air stream travels between the air curtain and at least one opening in the duct system through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items;

wherein the air stream passes over a water source which humidifies the air stream and wherein the air stream impacts a baffle positioned over the water source.

70. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 69, wherein the speed of the air stream as it passes over the water source is less than the speed of the air in the air curtain.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 69, wherein the water source is heated.

73-75. (Cancelled)